ABSTRACT:

The invention relates to a method and device for adding or extracting a secondary information signal to/from a runlength-limited code sequence. A polarity of a runlength at a first predetermined position of the runlength-limited code sequence is detected and a parameter reflecting the degree of freedom that is present in the runlength-limited channel code, e.g. the selection of a merging bit pattern in the CD-standard, is set on the basis of the detected polarity so as to obtain a predetermined polarity of a runlength at a subsequent second predetermined position of the runlength-limited code sequence. The predetermined polarity then corresponds to a binary value of the secondary information. Thus, a side-channel with a small capacity is provided, which is positioned very close to the physical channel such that the secondary information is hard to be detected from the EFM bit stream. Therefore, the side-channel can be used as a hidden channel for copy protection purposes. The invention also relates to a record carrier and binary signal comprising the secondary information.

Fig. 1